

Claims

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1. An architecture for a versioning application program interface, comprising an OLE DB interface for communicating with a client application; a first command parser operatively coupled to the OLE DB interface; a command dispatcher operatively coupled to the first command parser; and one or more protocol providers operatively couplable to the command dispatcher, with each protocol provider including a second command parser.
 2. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the one or more protocol providers includes at least three protocol providers.
 3. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the OLE DB interface is compatible with the OLE DB 2.5 specification.
 4. The architecture of claim 1, wherein the command dispatcher functions synchronously or asynchronously and wherein one or more of the protocol providers function synchronously.
 5. The architecture of claim 1, wherein one or more of the protocol providers is implemented as one or more C++ or COM objects.
 6. The architecture of claim 1, further comprising one or more version stores operatively couplable to each of the one or more protocol providers.
 7. An architecture for a versioning application program interface, comprising an interface for communicating with a client application; a command dispatcher for dispatching commands or requests from the client application; and two or more versioning protocol providers operatively couplable to the command dispatcher, with each versioning protocol provider for communicating with a at

- least one corresponding version store.
8. The architecture of claim 7, further comprising:
a first command parser for parsing at least a first portion of a request or command from the client application; and
two or more second command parsers for parsing a second portion of the request or command from the client application, with each of the second command parsers associated with only one of the versioning protocol providers.
 9. The architecture of claim 7, further comprising:
a first command parser for parsing at least a first portion of a request or command from the client application; and
two or more second command parsers for parsing a second portion of the request or command from the client application, with at least one of the second command parsers capable of parsing commands from two or more of the versioning protocol providers.
 10. The architecture of claim 7, wherein the interface is compatible with the OLE DB 2.5 specification.
 11. The architecture of claim 7, wherein the command dispatcher functions synchronously or asynchronously and wherein one or more of the protocol providers function synchronously.
 12. The architecture of claim 7, wherein one or more of the protocol providers is implemented as one or more C++ or COM objects.
 13. The architecture of claim 7, further comprising one or more version stores operatively couplable to each of the one or more protocol providers.
 14. A versioning system comprising:
first parsing means for parsing at least a first portion of a data request or command;

one or more second parsing means for parsing at least a second portion of the data request or command;

command dispatching means for dispatching the parsed data request or command; and

one or more versioning protocol providers for receiving the dispatched request or command.

15. The system of claim 14, wherein one or more of the second parsing means are under control of a respective one of the protocol providers.

16. The system of claim 14 further comprising one or more version stores operatively couplable to one or more of the protocol providers.

17. A method of operating a computer system including two or more version stores, the method comprising:
receiving a request from a client application, with the request having at least first and second portions;
parsing the first portion of the request;
parsing the second portion of the request based on results of parsing the first portion;
dispatching the parsed first and second portions of the request to one of the two or more version stores based on the first portion of the request.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein parsing the second portion of the request based on results of parsing the first portion comprises:
passing the second portion to a command parser associated with only with one of the version stores, based on the first portion; and
parsing the second portion at the command parser associated with the one version store.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein receiving the request from the client application occurs asynchronously and wherein dispatching the first and second portions of the request occurs

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synchronously.

20. A method of operating a versioning system, comprising:
receiving a request for data;
selecting at least one version store from a group of two or more version stores; and
communicating information based on the request to the selected version store.
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21. The method of claim 20, further comprising:
adding one or more version stores to the group of two or more version stores to form an
extended group of two or more version stores.
22. The method of claim 21, further comprising:
receiving another request;
selecting at least one version store from the extended group of two or more version stores,
based on the other request; and
forwarding information based on the other request to the selected version store.
23. A medium carrying computer-executable instructions for operating a versioning system,
the instructions comprising:
instructions for receiving a request for data;
instructions for selecting at least one version store from a group of two or more version
stores; and
instructions for communicating information based on the request to the selected version
store.
24. A computer readable medium having executable instructions encoded thereon
comprising:
an application program interface for receiving requests for versioned data; and
two or more versioning protocol providers operatively coupled to the application program

interface for facilitating fulfillment of the received requests.

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